

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/774,001

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

Applicant(s)

DUNCAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner initiated Interview on 8/21/2006 and amendment filed on 6/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,9,10,12-18,20-23,26 and 27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8/21/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

NASSER MOAZZAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's remarks see pages 6 – 9, filed 06/21/2006, have been fully considered and in view of the interview held on August 21, 2006, are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 – 5, 9, 10, 12 – 18, 20 – 23, 26 and 27 are allowed and are renumbered as 1 – 20.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas F. Brennan, Registration Number 35,075 on August 21, 2006.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A computer system for providing proxy firewall services for a computer network, comprising: a dispatch host computer, said dispatch host computer being connectable to an external network; and

at least one load host computer coupled to said dispatch host computer, said at least one load host computer configured to provide proxy firewall services, said at least one load host computer being connectable to one or more application servers, wherein said connection from the external network is distributed from said dispatch host computer to a particular load host computer based on an analysis of the type of protocol of the connection and an analysis of activity across the load host computers;

wherein said at least one load host computer and said dispatch host computer communicate information regarding the connection of said at least one load host computer to the computer system;

wherein said dispatch host computer includes a configuration file with information relating to load host computers in the computer system, wherein upon the connection of another load host computer to the computer system, said configuration file is updated to reflect the availability of said another load host computer in the computer system.

6 – 7 (Canceled)

10. (Amended) A method of providing proxy firewall services for a computer network, comprising: identifying a set of load host computers, each load host computer in said set of load host computers being configured to provide proxy firewall services; monitoring one or more incoming ports at a dispatch host computer for a connection;

upon identification of said connection, selecting from said set of load host computers a load host computer to which said connection should be forwarded based on an analysis of the type of protocol of said connection and an analysis of activity across the load host computers;

wherein said identifying comprises communicating information between said dispatch host computer and said load host computers relating to the availability of said load host computers.

11. (Canceled)

17. (Amended) A firewall network resource method comprising: identifying a resource intensive protocol;

designating a load host computer for providing primary support for said resource intensive protocol; and

routing a connection for said resource intensive protocol from a dispatch host computer to said designated load host, wherein said designated load host provides exclusive support for said resource intensive protocol and wherein designating includes

analyzing activity across a plurality of host computers and selecting a load host computer based on the load host computer activity analysis.

23. (Amended) A method of expanding proxy firewall services for a computer network comprising: receiving a connecting at a dispatch host computer;
selecting a first load host computer to which the connection should be forwarded;
forwarding said connection to said first load host computer;
connecting a second load host computer to said dispatch host computer; and
updating a configuration file on said dispatch host computer to reflect the connection of said second load host computer, wherein upon said updating, said second load host computer is available to process forwarded connections from said dispatch host computer- , wherein said updating comprises communicating information between said dispatch host computer and said second load host computer regarding the availability of said second load host computer.

24. (Canceled)

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday – Thursday 8:00a.m. To 3:00p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy
August 21, 2006.

NASSER MOAZZAMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER


8, 28, 06